

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A surgical instrument comprising:
- a proximal end spaced along a shaft from a distal end and a longitudinal axis passing therethrough;
 - a working head at said distal end, said working head comprising:
 - a. a blade having a serpentoid configuration and having a leading end and a trailing end spaced apart along said blade,
 - b. said blade having a first cutting surface extending from said leading end to said trailing end along a first edge of said blade and a second cutting surface extending from said leading end to said trailing end along a second edge of said blade, said first cutting surface and said second cutting surface arranged such that when said surgical instrument is rotated around said longitudinal axis in a first direction said first and second cutting surfaces are oriented for cutting and when said surgical instrument is rotated around said longitudinal axis in a second direction opposite to said first direction, said first and second cutting surfaces are not oriented for cutting; and
 - c. a collecting element at said leading end of said blade, said collecting element having a leading surface and a collecting surface to collect material cut by said blade.

2. The surgical instrument according to claim 1 wherein said first cutting edge is facing in a direction opposite said second cutting edge.
3. The surgical instrument according to claim 1 wherein said leading surface has a distal taper.
4. The surgical instrument according to claim 1 wherein said blade has a first diameter dimension when oriented in a first position and second diameter dimension, when said blade is oriented in a second position rotated 90 degrees around said longitudinal axis from said first position, said first diameter dimension greater than said second diameter dimension.
5. The surgical instrument according to claim 1 wherein said collecting element has a peripheral surface and said peripheral surface does not extend radially beyond said first and second cutting edges.
6. The surgical instrument according to claim 1 having a handle for rotating said instrument at said proximal end.
7. A surgical device for curetting an intervertebral disc between opposing first and second vertebrae, said surgical device comprising:
- a shaft have a proximal end and a distal end spaced apart along a longitudinal axis of said device;

10. The surgical device according to claim 8 wherein said collecting element has a tapered surface facing away from said leading end of said blade and a collecting surface facing toward said leading end of said blade.
11. The surgical device according to claim 7 wherein said first cutting edge is facing in a direction opposite said second cutting edge.
12. The surgical device according to claim 8 wherein a portion of a peripheral surface of said collecting element does not extend axially beyond a said first and second cutting edges.
13. The surgical device according to claim 7 having a handle for rotating said instrument at said proximal end.
14. A curette comprising:
- a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end spaced apart along a longitudinal axis of said curette;
 - a blade extending from said distal end of said shaft, said blade having a leading end and a trailing end,
 - said blade having an undulating configuration such that, a first side of said blade has a first concave region and a first convex region and a second side of said blade has a second concave region and a second convex region;

- said first side having a first cutting edge and said second side having a second cutting edge;
- a collecting element at said leading end of said blade, said collecting element overlying a portion of said first concave surface and said second concave surface.

15. The curette according to claim 14 wherein said first concave region and said second concave region face in opposite directions.
16. The curette according to claim 14 wherein said first concave region of said first side is adjacent said second convex region of said second side and said second concave region of said second side is adjacent said first concave region of said first side.
17. The curette according to claim 14 wherein when said curette is rotated in a first direction around said longitudinal axis said first and second cutting edges are oriented for cutting around said longitudinal axis and when said curette is rotated in a second direction around said longitudinal axis, opposite to said first direction, said first and second cutting edges are not oriented for cutting around said longitudinal axis.
18. The curette according to claim 17 wherein said first cutting edge is diametrically opposed to said second cutting edge.

19. The curette according to claim 18 wherein said collecting element has a tapered surface facing away from said distal end of said shaft and a collecting surface facing toward said distal end of said shaft.
20. The curette according to claim 14 wherein a portion of a peripheral surface of said collecting element does not extend beyond said first and second cutting edges.
21. The curette according to claim 14 having a handle for rotating said curette at said proximal end of said shaft.